

In the claims

1. (Currently amended) An escape device ~~characterized in that it includes~~
comprising:
 - a cable;
 - a rotatable cable dispensing assembly from which said cable is dispensed under load;
 - a braking mechanism operatively connected to said rotatable cable dispensing assembly;whereby a braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the rotatable cable dispensing assembly.
2. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that said device includes~~ further comprising an outer housing having said cable dispensing assembly and said braking mechanism located therein.
3. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~claim 1 or claim 2,~~
~~characterized in that said device includes an outer housing and~~ wherein said outer housing includes cooling leaf members adapted to allow air flow ~~there~~
~~through~~ therethrough to thereby dissipate any heat generated by said device.
4. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding~~

~~claims, characterized in that said device includes an~~ claim 3, wherein said outer housing ~~having~~ includes guides to locate the position of the cable dispensed from said device.

5. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said device includes~~ claim 1, further comprising a back plate mounted thereto, wherein said back plate is adapted to be strapped to a back of a person to thereby secure said person to said device.
6. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through an output shaft driven by the cable dispensing assembly and wherein said braking mechanism is a centrifugal braking mechanism in which a brake spinner frame having one or more braking elements attached thereto is connected to the output shaft and is rotated in response to rotation of the output shaft.
7. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~claim 6, characterized in that said braking frame includes one or more~~ wherein said braking elements are pivotally mounted thereto to said brake spinner frame and said braking elements pivoting pivot under the influence of centrifugal force as the output shaft rotates to thereby bring the braking elements progressively into contact with a braking surface.

8. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said braking elements are biased into a braking position whereby at least some braking force is applied when the device is at rest.
9. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through a geared arrangement.
10. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 9, wherein said rotatable cable dispensing assembly includes a reel from which said cable is dispensed; said reel having an innermost surface ~~service~~ which serves as a ring gear of a planetary gear mechanism and wherein said ring gear operates through a the planetary gear mechanism to drive ~~drives~~ an output shaft, said output shaft serving to operate said braking mechanism.
11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An escape device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the planetary gear ~~arrangement~~ mechanism consists of three outermost planetary gears carried on a stationary gear frame and ~~are~~ arranged around a central spinner gear and wherein the spinner gear independently engages all three planetary gears, whereby each planetary gear engages the

ring gear such that dispensing of cable drives the ring gear which, in turn, drives the planetary gears and thus the spinner gear.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An escape device according to claim 9 11,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spinner gear is secured for rotation on a spinner gear shaft, and whereby the spinner gear shaft is also connected to the braking mechanism such that ~~a~~ the speed of rotation of the spinner gear and thereby the speed of rotation of the braking mechanism is proportional to ~~a~~ the speed of rotation of the ring gear and thus the ~~a~~ braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the cable dispensing assembly.
13. (Currently amended) An escape device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said cable is adapted to be connected at a free end thereof to a launch arm attached to a building.
14. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that a~~ wherein the launch arm ~~consists of~~ includes a channel member having a track therein adapted to hold a runner attached to ~~a~~ the free end of the cable.
15. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said launch arm is movable between a retracted position in which the channel member is inoperative and an extended ~~condition~~ position in which

the launch arm is available for use; said launch arm including a safety flap
serving to restrict access to said channel member when the launch arm is in the
retracted position and said safety flap being released as said ~~channel~~ launch
arm is moved to ~~an~~ the extended position thereby permitting access to said
channel member.